

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 11378

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TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, CSCE, UK

SUBJECT: CSCE STAGE III: AGENDA FOR THE FORD-WILSON
MEETING, JULY 30

REF: STATE 170906

1. NEIL SMITH, ACTING HEAD OF NORTH AMERICA DEPARTMENT, FCO, HAS PROVIDED US WITH OUTLINE OF FCO BRIEFING PAPERS BEING PREPARED FOR PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S BREAKFAST WITH PRESIDENT FORD JULY 30. WILSON PLANS TO STUDY PAPERS DURING COMING WEEKEND.

2. FCO EXPECTS TWO MEN INITIALLY TO REVIEW FORTHCOMING CSCE SUMMIT AND TO DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS (E.G., PORTUGAL, CYPRUS), THAT MIGHT ARISE THERE. AFTER THAT, FCO IS SUGGESTING PRIME MINISTER SEEK THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE MIDDLE EAST TALKS, THE FUTURE COURSE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, THE CONSUMER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE, COMMODITIES POLICY, AND THE UN. HE MAY ALSO TOUCH LIGHTLY ON CONCORDE. IN CONCLUSION, HE WILL EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT MAY SOON BE ABLE TO VISIT THE UK.

3. SMITH SAID THE FCO WAS ALSO ALERTING THE PM TO EXPECT THE PRESIDENT TO CAUTION THE UK AGAINST MAKING ANY FURTHER DEFENSE CUTS. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, WE RECOMMEND THAT
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THE PRESIDENT MAKE AT LEAST SOME REFERENCE TO THE SUBJECT,

IF ONLY BECAUSE FAILURE TO DO SO MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED
BY WILSON.

4. FURTHERMORE, IN PREPARING BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR THE
PRESIDENT, WE RECOMMEND THE DEPARTMENT INCLUDE THE FOLLOW-
ING TWO ITEMS:

U.K. ECONOMIC SITUATION: WE SUGGEST PRESIDENT CONSIDER
ATTACK INFLATION, STRESSING IMPORTANCE TO UK OF BRINGING
ITS INFLATION UNDER CONTROL AND DOWN TO A LEVEL COMPARABLE
TO THAT OF MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS. HE COULD ALSO POINT
OUT THAT THERE IS NO EASY OR PAINLESS WAY OF EXORCISING
INFLATION; IT HURTS, BUT INFLATIONARY EXPECTATIONS MUST
BE BROKEN.

NORTH SEA OIL: THE PRESIDENT MIGHT MENTION TO THE
PRIME MINISTER OUR HOPE THAT THE UK WILL DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP NORTH SEA OIL RESOURCES PROMPTLY.
SPECIFICALLY, WE HOPE THAT THE CURRENT PETROLEUM AND SUB-
MARINE PIPELINES LEGISLATION AND THE PROGRAM FOR THE
GOVERNMENT'S PARTICIPATION WILL NOT BE PURSUED IN SUCH A
WAY AS TO DETER THE OIL COMPANIES AND THE BANKS FROM THE
NECESSARY INVESTMENT.

5. PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH LIST OF TOPICS WHITE HOUSE
EXPECTS TO BE RAISED AT BREAKFAST MEETING, TOGETHER WITH
ANY COMMENTS THAT MIGHT USEFULLY BE PASSED ON TO FCO.

RICHARDSON

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